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20 March 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

AT FROM:

[Redacted]

Chief, Legislation Division, OLC

SUBJECT: Legislation Implementing the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977

1. Attached for your consideration and comments are four bills implementing the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977. Of the four, the most important is H.R. 1716, the Administration's bill.

The bill was divided and jointly referred to four committees as follows:

Foreign Affairs: Sections 101-105 and 107 (relating to U.S. - Panamanian Relations and security matters.)

Merchant Marine and Fisheries: Title II and section 106 (relating to the establishment of the Panama Canal Commission, termination of the Canal Zone Government, transfer of records and property, tolls and claims).

Judiciary: Title IV (relating to courts and related functions).

Post Office and Civil Service: Title III (relating to conditions of employment, placement and retirement).

2. During the past week, these committees have been holding hearings on those portions of the bill which were referred to them. Committee action must be completed and a report filed not later than 10 April 1979.

3. Two other bills, H.R. 111 by Mr. Murphy and H.R. 454, by Mr. Hansen have also been introduced. Mr. Murphy's bill will draw much attention since he chairs the House Merchant Marine Committee. The personnel provisions in H. R. 111 differ only slightly from those in H.R. 1716.

4. Please refer any comments on any of the bills to
[redacted], of my staff.

AT

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